

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 04471 111106Z

11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

/058 W

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R 111045Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8520

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 4471

E.O. 11762: GDS

TAGS: PINS SY

SUBJ: EXPLOSION AT BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND HEADQUARTERS

KILLS NC MEMBER AHMAD AL-IZZAWI

1. TWO RELIABLE SYRIAN SOURCES HAVE REPORTED TO US EXPLOSION AT BAATH PARTY NATIONAL (PAN-ARAB) COMMAND HEADQUARTERS IN DAMASCUS MORNING JULY 10. ACCORDING TO SOURCES, BOMB PLACED IN OFFICE OF IRAQI NC MEMBER AHMAD AL-IZZAWI, DIRECTOR OF IRAQI AFFAIRS BUREAU AND TARGET OF PREVIOUS ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON JUNE 27, 1975 (75 DAMASCUS 2584) WHICH SERIOUSLY WOUNDED BUT DID NOT KILL IZZAWI. IZZAWI REELECTED TO NC MONTH LATER AT LAST SUMMER'S 12TH PARTY CONGRESS DESPITE HIS SERIOUS INJURIES. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, A DOCTOR CALLED IN TO TRY TO SAVE IZZAWI'S LIFE, EXPLOSIVES WERE CONNECTED TO AND TRIGGERED BY INTERCOM BUZZER ON IZZAWI'S DESK. THERE AS YET ABSOLUTELY NO MENTION THIS INCIDENT IN SYRIAN MEDIA.

2. COMMENT: SUSPICION INEVITABLY WILL FOCUS ON BAGHDAD. ASSASSINATION OF IZZAWI IN BUILDING CONTAINING OFFICES OF

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SENIOR PARTY LEADERS CERTAIN TO BE COUNTED A MAJOR SUCCESS FOR

BAGHDAD AND CORRESPONDING SETBACK FOR MUCH-VAUNTED SYRIAN
SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS SO MUCH IN EVIDENCE AROUND DAMASCUS
THESE DAYS. IT INDICATES SOME OF SARG'S KEY SECURITY OR-
GANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY PENETRATED BY IRAQI
INTELLIGENCE. DEATH OF IZZAWI REMOVES MAN LONG CONSIDERED
BY IRAQI BAATH AS TRAITOR AND A PRIORITY LOCAL TARGET.
MURPHY

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NNN

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